



This Bikeways Map shows the bike lanes, multi-use paths, and bicycle/pedestrian bridges in the City of San José. This map was developed in a joint effort between VTA and the City of San José.

- ### Bicycles on Transit
- General Rules (for VTA and Caltrain):**
- All bicyclists must pay the appropriate fare. However, there is no additional charge for bringing a bicycle onboard.
 - Do not block doors, aisles, and stairwells with your bicycle while onboard.
 - Bicyclists are responsible for loading and unloading their bicycles.
 - Bicyclists must attend to bicycles not secured in racks while onboard transit vehicles.
 - Allow other passengers to board or deboard before loading or unloading your bicycle.
 - Avoid getting chain and sprocket grease on transit vehicles and other passengers.
 - Muddy bicycles are not permitted onboard at any time.
 - Do not secure your bicycle to poles, light fixtures, pillars, etc. at transit centers or on rail platforms.
 - Always walk your bicycle on rail platforms and passenger platforms at transit centers.
 - In emergency situations, please leave your bicycle on board.
 - Only human powered and sealed dry cell or gel cell electric-assisted bicycles are allowed.

City & Transportation Contact Information

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this map, please send them to:

Bikeways Map San José Bike Program 200 E Santa Clara Street, 8th Floor San Jose, CA 95113-1905 email: john.brazil@sanjose.ca.gov	
City of San José	(408) 535-3500 www.sanjoseca.gov
Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)	(408) 321-2300 www.vta.org
Santa Clara County Roads	(408) 299-3126 www.sccgov.org
Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Train ..	(800) 411-7245 www.acerail.com
Amtrak & Capitol Corridor Trains	(800) 872-7245 www.amtrakcapitol.com
Caltrain Information	(800) 660-4287 www.caltrain.com
TravInfo (Regional Transportation Info.)	511 www.511.org
(For other transit agencies such as BART, ACE, Amtrak, etc.)	
San José Bike Program , 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 8th Floor San Jose, CA 95113-1905	



Biking for Fun and Function

Whether you bike to work, school, shop or for fun, biking is a healthy, economical, and pollution-free form of transportation. Combining biking with transit or a car will enable you to travel longer distances. Whether riding for fun or function, be sure to observe the rules of the road.

- ### Tips for Commuting by Bicycle
- Plan your route in advance. However, you may need to try out several routes before you find the most suitable one.
 - Ride a well-equipped bicycle. Be sure your bicycle is adjusted to fit you properly. For safety and efficiency, outfit it with a bell, rear-view mirror and fenders (for rainy rides). Racks, baskets or bike bags are also useful for carrying things.
 - Maintain your bicycle in good condition. Check brakes regularly and keep tires properly inflated. Routine maintenance is simple and you can learn to do it yourself.
 - Dress Appropriately: Wear a hard shell helmet whenever you ride (required by law for bicyclists under 18 years of age). Wear comfortable clothes in layers, so you can adjust to temperature changes on longer rides. Wear light-colored clothes and/or reflective accessories when riding in the dark.
 - Combining biking with transit or a car will enable you to travel longer distances. Consult the "Bikes on Transit" section for more details.
 - Expressways: Bicycles are permitted on all Santa Clara County expressways. The expressways generally carry high volumes of traffic at high speeds. Cyclists are therefore advised to use caution. Although there are striped shoulders for bicyclists on most of the expressways, the expressways should only be used by bicyclists with advanced skills.
 - On-Ramps/Off-Ramps: Bicyclists should exercise extreme caution in areas where freeway and expressway on-ramps and off-ramps merge with local streets, as motor vehicles tend to travel at very high speeds when approaching on-ramps and emerging from off-ramps.
 - Bike Loop Detectors: At some intersections, bicyclists can change traffic signals for their direction of travel by placing the bicycle's wheels on the loop detector.



Bikes on Buses

All VTA Buses are equipped with exterior bicycle racks that can accommodate up to two bicycles. If the rack is filled or non-operational, up to two bicycles will be allowed inside the bus, subject to the operator's discretion and when passenger loads are light. Highway 17 Express and the Dumbarton Express Buses are also equipped with exterior bicycle racks that can accommodate up to two bicycles. However, bicycles are not allowed inside the bus on these routes.



Bikes on Light Rail

All VTA Light Rail vehicles are equipped with interior bike racks that can accommodate up to four bicycles. Up to two additional bicycles may be held in the turntable area of the vehicle. All bicycles must be boarded through the doors marked by a bicycle symbol, usually the center doors.

For additional tips on bringing your bicycle on VTA, please consult a *Bike & Ride on VTA* brochure.



Bikes on Caltrain

Each bike car can carry a minimum of 16 bicycles. The primary bike car is on the northernmost end of the train. A second bike car is provided whenever possible. The second bike car is usually the second car from the locomotive. Bicycles must be stowed in the designated bicycle storage space in the bike car, noted by a yellow decal on the outside. Bicycles enclosed in a cover are not subject to the 24-bicycle limit. Bicyclists must be 12 years of age or older. Boarding of bicycles is on a first-come, first-served basis only. If a bicyclist boards the train and the bike car(s) is full, the bicyclist may have to get off and wait for the next train. In unusual circumstances, at his or her discretion, the conductor may refuse transportation or revise the handling of bicycles due to crowded trains, bicycle condition or unsafe conditions.



Bicycle Lockers at Transit Stations

VTA Stations
Bike lockers are available at many VTA Light Rail Stations and Park & Ride lots. Lockers provide secure bike storage, and eliminate the inconvenience of loading and unloading of bicycles from transit vehicles. There is no charge for renting a locker from VTA. However, a \$25 key deposit is required. Each locker is assigned exclusively to the renter for the duration of the rental period.

VTA Bike Lockers are at the following locations:
Light Rail Stations: Almaden, Alum Rock, Bascom, Blossom Hill, Branham, Capitol, Cottle, Curtner, Evelyn, Hostetter, I-880/Milpitas, Lockheed Martin, NASA, Oakridge, Ohlone/Chynoweth, Penitencia Creek, Santa Teresa, Snell, Tamien, Winchester.

Transit centers: Almaden/Via Valiente, Camden/Highway 85, Eastridge, Great Mall, Lawrence Expressway/Moorpark, Los Gatos, Main/Hale (Morgan Hill), Page Mill/El Camino, River Oaks.



Caltrain
Bike lockers are also available at all Caltrain Stations in Santa Clara County except Stanford (Stadium), College Park and San Martin. Caltrain administers bicycle locker rentals at Caltrain Stations in Zones SF through 6 (Tamien and points north). VTA administers the bicycle lockers at Caltrain Stations in Zones 7 and 8 (south of Tamien).

Bicycling Skills Classes

The City of San José offers the public free Bicycling Skills Classes. Designed for people who have already learned to ride, this course provides the laws, skills and practice needed to increase your ability and confidence on a bike. Topics covered include how to change lanes, cross intersections, ride at night, use public transit, and fix a flat. An excellent primer for casual bicyclists who want to become more confident and comfortable riding a bike. Participants must be at least 18 years old, or a teenager accompanied by a parent or guardian. Courses are based on the leading national curriculum of the League of American Bicyclist. For more information, contact john.brazil@sanjoseca.gov.

Bicycle Organizations & Clubs

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition	www.svcbikes.org
Western Wheelers Bicycle Club	www.westernwheelers.org
Almaden Cycle Touring Club	www.actc.org
Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers	www.romp.org
Velo Girls	www.velogirls.com
Alto Velo Bicycle Racing Club	www.altovelo.org
Hellyer Velodrome	www.stanford.edu/~roadman/Bike_Racing/NCVA/
Skyline Cycling Club	www.sonic.net/~jps/skyline
Bay Area Bicycle Coalition	www.bayareaabikes.org
California Bicycle Coalition	www.calbike.org
California Assoc. of Bicycle Organizations	www.cabobike.org
League of American Bicyclist	www.bikeleague.org
BikeStation	www.bikestation.org
America Bikes	www.americabikes.org
Thunderhead Alliance	www.thunderheadalliance.org
Adventure Cycling	www.adventurecycling.org



Trails Program

General information about existing trails and planning documents for projects under development are available on the web and at: www.sanjose.gov/prns. Complete the online survey and help shape future projects.

Bicycle Advocacy Groups

Bicycle advocacy groups promote policies and provide input on issues to local government, and organize events and programs. They are also a great resource for practical bicycling information.

Santa Clara County	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (408) 236-2181 www.svcbikes.org P.O. Box 831 Cupertino, CA 95015
San Mateo County	Peninsula Bicycle/Pedestrian Coalition (PBPC) (650) 291-7343 www.penbiped.org
San Francisco City & County	San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) (415) 431-2453 www.sfbike.org
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties	East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) (510) 433-7433 www.ebbc.org

Bicycle Advisory Committees

City of San José Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113
www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation/
www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation/transportation_bike_andped.htm
www.sanjoseca.gov

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
3333 N. First Street
San Jose, CA 95134
www.vta.org/services/bikes.html
www.vta.org

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Regional Bicycle Work Group
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/bicycle/

California Department of Transportation Bicycle Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/bike/cbac.htm

Rules of the Road

This is a summary of the bicycle provisions of the California Vehicle Code. Cyclists should check the Vehicle Code for more detailed information. The complete Vehicle Code is available through the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

- Bicyclists have all the rights and responsibilities of motorists. ***\$21200(a)***
- All persons under the age of 18 years must wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet meeting ANSI, Snell or ASTM F-1447 standards while riding a bicycle. ***\$21212*** (All persons over the age of 18 years are strongly recommended likewise.)
- Bicyclists in a bike lane, on a roadway, or on the shoulder of a highway must ride in the same direction as traffic on the roadway. ***\$21650.1***
- When traveling more slowly than the normal speed of traffic, bicyclists must ride in the bike lane (where present) or ride as close to the right as practicable on roadways without bike lanes, except:
 - 1 when passing another bicycle or vehicle.
 - 2 when preparing to make a left turn.
 - 3 to avoid hazards that make it unsafe to stay this far right.
 - 4 when approaching a place where a right turn is authorized (for example, at a free right turn lane). ***\$21208 (a), \$21202 (a)***
- Bicyclists should ensure it is safe, and give the appropriate signal before moving out of the bike lane. ***\$21208 (b)***
- Vehicles may use the shoulder when traveling so slowly as to impede normal movement of traffic. ***\$21650(f)***
- Bicyclists may ride on the shoulder of a roadway where it is not otherwise prohibited. ***\$21650(g)***
- On one-way streets with two or more traffic lanes, bicyclists may ride as near to the left as practicable. ***\$21202(b)***
- Every bicycle ridden at night must have the following equipment:
 - 1 a white headlight, or a white light attached to the rider illuminating the roadway in front of the bicyclist, visible from a distance of 300 feet in front and from the sides of the rider.
 - 2 a red rear reflector visible from 500 feet to the rear.
 - 3 white or yellow pedal reflectors.
 - 4 white or yellow side reflectors on the front portion of the bicycle and white or red side reflectors on the rear portion of the bicycle, or reflectorized front and rear tires. ***\$21201.d***
- It is illegal to park a bicycle on a sidewalk in such a way that it blocks pedestrian traffic. ***\$21210.***
- Bicyclists may not carry any package or article that prevents them from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars. ***\$21205.***
- Bicyclists may not wear earplugs in both ears or a head set covering both ears. This section does not apply to hearing aids. ***\$27400.***
- It is against the law to ride a bicycle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. ***\$21200.5.***

Preventing Bicycle Theft

Locking your bike to a bicycle rack can prevent most bicycle thefts:

- Securing your bicycle using a cable lock or chain:**
- 1 Use a cable or chain at least 3/8" in diameter.
 - 2 Use a key lock with a 3/8" hardened shackle with heel and toe locking.
 - 3 Loop the cable or chain through each of the wheels, the bicycle frame and the rack.
 - 4 Pull up all slack in the cable or chain and make sure the lock is as high off the ground as possible.

- Securing your bicycle using a "U"-Type Lock**
- 1 On bikes with quick-release wheels – release the front wheel and include it with the rear wheel and the bicycle frame when securing it to the bike rack.
 - 2 On bikes without quick-release wheels – position the lock through both the front wheel and the bicycle frame when securing it to the bicycle rack.

- Other tips:**
- 1 Park your bicycle in a location with heavy pedestrian traffic.
 - 2 Do not secure it to trees, buildings, signposts, handrailings, etc.
 - 3 Record the make, model and serial number of your bicycle and keep it in a safe place.
 - 4 Engrave a personal identification number of your choice somewhere on the frame. Remember the number and its location. This will help with identification if it is recovered.



BICYCLING SAFETY TIPS

DOs

Obey traffic signs and signals
Bicyclists must drive like motorists if they are to be taken seriously. Bicyclists are required to come to a complete stop at stop signs and red signal lights.

Use hand signals
Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy, and self-protection.

Ride in the middle of the lane in slow traffic
Don't ride the line. Get in the middle of the lanes at busy intersections and whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic.

Choose the best way to turn left
There are three ways to make a left turn.
1 Like a vehicle: Signal, look back for oncoming traffic, then move into the left turn lane. Turn left when it is clear.
2 Like a bicycle: Ride to the far side of the intersection, stop, turn, and then ride across the street when the light turns green.
3 Like a pedestrian: You can always get off your bike and walk across one or both crosswalks. Yield to pedestrians.

Follow lane markings
Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked right-turn only.

Watch for cars pulling out
Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don't see you until you are sure they do. When the sun is in their eyes, drivers may not see you.

Keep clear of the door zone
Try to ride a door's width away from parked cars. If you have to ride in the door zone, ride very slowly. You have the right to ride in the middle of a motor vehicle lane if it is too narrow to share with a car. Watch for cars pulling out.

Scan the road around you
Keep your eyes roving constantly for cars, people, sand and gravel, grates, etc. Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving.

Respects pedestrians' rights
Pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks have the right of way. When entering or exiting driveways, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians on the sidewalk. Never ride on the sidewalk unless it is specifically permitted. If permitted to ride on the sidewalk, ride slowly. Be especially aware of small children, people with pets, people with disabilities and their service animals.

Never ride against traffic
Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding against traffic on the wrong side of the road.

Don't weave between parked cars
Motorists may not see you when you try to move into traffic. Use extra caution on streets that allow use of the parking shoulder as a motor vehicle lane during peak hours.

Don't pass on the right
Motorists may not look for nor see a bicycle passing on the right.

In front, or far behind, not beside!
To ensure drivers of large vehicles (buses, trucks and motor homes) can see you, stay out of their blind spots. Never pass on the right side. Ride far enough behind for the driver to see you, and at least four feet from the sides to avoid falling under a large vehicle.

Ride with both hands, ready to brake
You may need to stop suddenly at unexpected times. In rain, allow three times the normal braking distance.

Ride to see and be seen
Use a strong headlight and rear reflector or taillight at night or when visibility is poor. Wear light-colored clothes with reflective tape for extra protection. Reflective leg bands are also effective.

You may leave a bike lane
When a road hazard or other obstruction exists in a bike lane, or you anticipate a motorist might turn across your path, you may temporarily merge with caution into the adjacent motor vehicle lane for safety.

Avoid road hazards
Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, detour signage, sand, gravel and debris. Cross railroad tracks carefully at right angles. For better control as you move across bumps and other hazards, stand up off the seat.



City of San José School Bicycle Safety Program